

The STUDIO NEWSLETTER

Helen R. Weems Piano Studio *** January/February 2019

Winter in California



California Dreamin'!! I'm closing the studio for most of XXX and heading for the sun. All students will receive one normal studio lesson the first week of XXXX. The studio will close on XXXXX and open on XXXX. In the middle of this closure you will take one Skype/FaceTime e-lesson with me, *which will be 15 minutes shorter than your usual lesson time*. At the conclusion, there is a rep class. (!) The month costs XXX for students who have enrolled with 45 minute lessons, and \$XXX for students who have enrolled 60 minute lessons. The reduced tuition pays for your one normal lesson at the start of XXXX, the shorter e-lesson in the middle of the month, and unlimited (and encouraged) video exchange. I am scheduling the e-lessons now for XXXX and XX.

FaceTime is my favorite distance tool. Due to the difficulties of scheduling across time zones and my friend's studio, **I ask for your commitment to the schedule** we make. I expect my students to **practice faithfully** in my absence, and to **be at your pianos and devices ahead of the scheduled lesson**, with the device powered down and back up beforehand. Either of us can FaceTime/Skype the other to commence the lesson. The student will write their assignment in the binder. Those students participating in the Outreach Recital and/or the Judged Recital are asked to have someone film their performance for us to view upon return.

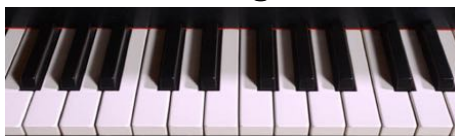
My email/FaceTime account is weemspianostudio@gmail.com. My Skype handle is weemsie.

*** I encourage my students to send frequent videos via Google Drive, Mail Drop, Canvass, or link to private YouTube, and I will respond to your work as many times as you send it to me – this is perhaps the best value I can offer my students during my three weeks away.***



Saturday, January 12	3:45pm	Winter Repertory Class
Saturday, January 19	11-4pm	GCMTA Story & Friends Fests @ Chr Ep
Friday, February 1		Postmark deadline for MSMETA HS Exam
Saturday, February 2	3pm	Lugansky Concert Outing @ HCC
		XXXXX
Sunday, February 10	7:30	GCMTA Outreach @ Vantage House
Saturday, February 23	all day	GCMTA Judged Recital @ Holmes
Saturday, March 2	3:45pm	Back2Normal Rep
		XXXXX
Sunday, March 24	all day	MSMTA Ensemble Comp @ UMCP
Tuesday, March 26	7:30pm	Movie Night for Adults

Practice Tip No. 27 for Parents - Urgent VS Important, Part The Third



January is very important to set up success in Spring Recitals, Competitions, and exams. Every lesson is IMPORTANT, every week between lessons is essential for making big strides of progress. The GCMTA Judged Recital comes right at the end of February, and your child's ability to participate in this event will determine their confidence level when competition season opens in April. If your child is young or chooses not to compete, winter is time to develop and polish skills, and learn a piece for the Spring Concert. We're looking to avoid that panicked urgency with putting important things straight NOW.

Then comes February! I will be only an email away (see reverse); please feel free to ask questions about what your child should be doing. The usual cues apply: you should **hear piano playing**, it should involve **boring repetition of difficult passages** (not the easy stuff over and over), **lots of slow, painstaking practice** (no fluffing the tough stuff), and **plenty of counting**. This is not as enjoyable for them or you, but it is IMPORTANT and what makes the difference in **March** (when I return and host a Back2Normal Rep).

******Never, ever underestimate the power of your attention to your child's success.*****
 You may not be a musician, but your observations are **powerful**. Cheers! Helen